

over the past year. Housing costs are up more than 6 percent. Clothing is up nearly 7 percent. Each category is the worst it has been since at least the early 1980s.

Remember, if and when the inflation rate begins to gradually slow, that does not mean all of these sky-high prices for goods and services will actually fall back down. In many cases, this painful and preventable inflation will be baked into prices going forward. These Democratic price hikes will likely be American families' new normal at the checkout counter, a permanent—permanent—direct result of their failed policies.

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on a different matter, this week, our colleagues want a second run on some controversial nominees who stalled out last month.

Today, Senate Democrats will try again to confirm Professor Lisa Cook to the Federal Reserve Board. Professor Cook has no proven expertise in monetary economics at all, much less fighting inflation. One of her main supposed qualifications for this position is that she sits on the regional Fed Board in Chicago. The problem is, she was literally appointed to that position a few days before she was nominated for this one.

Professor Cook is a proven partisan who has promoted leftwing conspiracy theories and called for a fellow academic to be fired because that person did not support defunding the police. The American people deserve an independent, nonpartisan inflation fighter for this important post.

Likewise, the Federal Trade Commission is an important Agency that gets wide latitude to oversee our private sector. The American people need its Commissioners to be levelheaded experts who will put aside ideological ax-grinding.

The two current Commissioners who were appointed by a Republican President were so qualified and uncontroversial, the Senate approved each of them on a voice vote. But to serve as their newest colleague, President Biden has picked a radical partisan named Alvaro Bedoya.

Mr. Bedoya is such a poor fit that the first time Leader SCHUMER tried to shut down debate on his nomination, he lacked the votes and had to call it off. But Democrats want this hardcore partisan confirmed very badly, so here we are once again.

Mr. Bedoya has publicly attacked police and law enforcement and demanded that our country not enforce—not enforce—our immigration laws. He has called for States to essentially nullify Federal immigration law, saying:

Maryland police have no business working with ICE [and] I think it's high time that state legislators understand that they can do something about this.

He has volunteered statements that align with “defund the police,” de-

manding that none of the Democrats' trillions in stimulus waste should go to provide for law enforcement.

Mr. Bedoya's social media feeds have read like the rantings of a far-left activist with no aspiration to ever receive Senate confirmation.

He has embraced socialized medicine, critical race theory, and cracking down on citizens' Second Amendment rights. He has launched political attacks on current Senators and called the National Republican Party Convention a—listen to this—“White supremacist rally”—a “White supremacist rally,” the Republican National Convention.

The rabid partisanship is not just an extracurricular activity. We know Mr. Bedoya would apply it specifically to the work of the FTC. He is already on the record calling for the elimination of longstanding bipartisan FTC policy statements. He supports excluding minority party Commissioners from investigations.

This nominee would not be fit to neutrally oversee major economic decisions, no matter what the makeup of the Senate was. But he is an essentially foolish choice—foolish—when the American people handed this administration a 50–50 Senate.

I would urge my colleagues on both sides to stop this awful nomination so the President can reconsider and send us somebody suitable.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ann Claire Phillips, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Maritime Administration.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for more than 70 days now, the Ukrainian people have endured—and more than endured, they fought back. They stood up to their invaders and have achieved amazing things against a superior force—superior, at least, on paper.

Many feared that Russia would crush Ukraine in days. Instead, Ukraine has not only withstood Russian aggression but has inflicted humiliating defeats on Russia. Twelve—twelve—Russian generals have reportedly been killed. Russia lost thousands of its troops, as well as hundreds of tanks and scores of aircraft. One estimate from British intelligence suggests that Russia may have lost more than a quarter of its ground combat strength.

Ukrainians successfully pushed Russia out of the Kyiv suburbs, have retaken territory outside of Kharkiv, and still—still—maintain a defiant hold on the steel plant in Mariupol despite being encircled by Russian troops.

At the same time we recognize Ukraine's successes and the fierce determination that has made them possible, it is also important to remember the devastation this war has inflicted. Thousands of Ukrainian civilians have been killed. Somewhere around 12 million Ukrainians have fled their homes. And the list of Russian atrocities gets longer every day—schools and hospitals intentionally bombed, executions and mass graves, torture, rape, the deliberate targeting of civilians, apparent war crimes.

In a few short weeks, Russia has brought unimaginable devastation. The port city of Mariupol—once home to more than 400,000 people—has been reduced to rubble. The city essentially no longer exists. Across Ukraine, an untold number of homes and buildings have been destroyed. It will take years to rebuild or remove the imprint of Russian aggression from the landscape, and some things cannot be entirely recovered. Just last night, Russia intentionally struck civilian centers in Odessa, bombing a shopping mall and a consumer warehouse without regard for innocent human life.

The Ukrainian people have displayed an incredible gallantry and resolve. They have embraced this fight and the cause of their country's freedom. They have not spent any time waiting around for anyone else to come and save them. In fact, a recent news story highlighted the fact that Ukrainians not only continue to oppose the Russians, they have actually started rebuilding in places even as the war continues to rage.

But it is also important to remember that the Ukrainian people cannot sustain this war without military support from the United States and other free countries. The weapons and military resources we have supplied are playing a crucial role in enabling Ukraine to continue standing up to Russian aggression, and it is essential that we continue that support for as long as the Ukrainian people need it.

At the end of April, the President sent Congress a request for \$33 billion in emergency supplemental funding for critical security and economic assistance to Ukraine. Negotiations are ongoing about how we iron out a few matters. The top-line numbers may